



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Council Chamber
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030**

July 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC ADVISORY:
THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Statement of Civility
As your appointed governing board we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made tonight will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.*

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-08-21, issued by Governor Newsom, the regular meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission July 27, 2021 will be conducted remotely and held by video conference.

Beginning in July, the City will resume in-person public meetings. The in-person/virtual hybrid meetings will maintain transparency and public access while protecting the health and safety of the public. Members of the public have the option to participate in-person or via Zoom using the following link:

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission
Zoom Meeting Information
Webinar ID: 865 3963 9796

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information accordingly; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link:
<https://zoom.us/j/86539639796>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling: +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted to do so.

For additional Zoom assistance with telephone audio, you may find your local number at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcqijC6iQx>

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission welcomes public input. Public comments will be taken live in one of two formats, in-person or via zoom. Members of the public may also submit their comments in writing for Natural Resources and Environmental Commission consideration, by emailing comments to: nrecpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov. **Public Comments must be received by 12:00 p.m., July 27, 2021** to ensure adequate time to compile and post. Written public comments will not be read aloud during the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: William J. Kelly

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Rona Bortz, Michelle Hammond, Casey Law, William J. Kelly, Michael Siegel; Vice Chair Madeline C. Di Giorgi; Chair Amy Davis Jones.

COUNCIL LIAISON: Mayor Pro Tem Michael A. Cacciotti

STAFF PRESENT: Ted Gerber, Deputy Public Works Director
Garrett Crawford, Public Works Operations Manager
Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE William J. Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) welcomes public input. Comments will be taken live during the meeting, in person, or via zoom.

Pursuant to state law, the NREC may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the NREC or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

1. Public Comment

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

2. South Pasadena Community Forest Proposal – Natural Urban Forests

ACTION ITEMS

3. Approval of Minutes- Meeting of June 22, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

4. City Council Liaison Communications

5. Commissioner Communications

6. Staff Liaison Communications

7. Upcoming Events

- National Night Out – August 3 – Orange Grove Park – 6pm
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars - Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars - Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE NREC MEETINGS

August 24, 2021	Council Chambers	7:00pm
September 28, 2021	Council Chambers	7:00pm

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Prior to meetings, agenda related documents and complete agenda packets are available for public inspection online at <https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions/natural-resources-environmental-commission>.

ACCOMMODATIONS



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's website as required by law.

7/22/21

Date

Arpy Kasparian
Arpy Kasparian

Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst

ITEM 2

South Pasadena Community Forest Proposal



Restoring Natural Order

Objective

Transforming a barren landscape into a thriving, lush forest is possible. Even in locations with 10 inches of annual rainfall, there is potential for creating a native tree forest. By utilizing the Miyawaki Method of afforestation, forest growth can be accelerated, burgeoning with density and diversity, increasing wildlife habitat and the health of humanity.

Goals

Natural Urban Forests aims to address the urgent need for restoration of thriving native forest ecosystems. Cities and suburban neighborhoods can provide a unique role in stitching together fragmented native habitat. New forests can quickly replace sterile urban deserts or fallow farmland that are lacking native flora and fauna diversity. Industrial and vacant sites are being underutilized and have great potential to serve as corridors for wildlife. These spaces can also significantly contribute to improved mental and physical health for the people in the surrounding areas.



Solution

The need for dense, habitat supporting, native forests is urgent. Urban forest corridors should be viewed as necessary infrastructure, like utility projects, vital to the comfort and survival of our cities. **The Miyawaki Method** of afforestation, pioneered by Akira Miyawaki, and expanded on by Shubhendu Sharma of **Afforestt**, has been shown to consistently yield accelerated forest growth rates while increasing tree survival rate up to 98%.

Project Outline

The purpose of our work is to create a thriving native forest for the benefit of all local inhabitants. ***Within 36 months of growth this thriving, dense forest will provide habitat to wildlife and provide seasonal native fruit to the forest visitors.***

The services offered for a pilot project include:

- Project management for up to 1,400 ***square foot native forest plantation.***
- ***Consultation on up to 550 native saplings planted*** utilizing a hybrid afforestation methodology combining the Miyawaki Method with site specific attention to the soil biota with the aim to ensure soil health and nutrient retention.
- Forest matrix selection with up to ***36 total species*** in 4 ascending layers (shrub, subtree, tree, and canopy).

Some examples include once common trees and shrubs to the habitat zone. Examples planted at The Yakama Nation Healing Forest in Toppenish, WA include: Black Cottonwood, Scouler Willow, Trembling Aspen, Wild Rose, Buffalo Berry, Native Blackberries, and Blue Elderberry.



Focus on appropriate species diversity and quantities as well as detailed attention to ***life in the soil***, can yield significant increase in nutrient retention in plant available form.

A native forest is an abundant resource that can foster a healthy community.

Advantages to planting a forest using the Miyawaki Method:

- 10x faster growth
- 30x more dense
- 100x more biodiverse
- 98% average tree survival.

Over 40 million trees have been planted around the world using this successful technique.

For examples see www.naturalurbanforests.com

Diversity



Planting day



Forest at 2 Years



Forest at 3 Years

With diversity comes abundance.

Many urban centers and neighborhoods have landscaping plans with non-native or monoculture plantings.

Although well intentioned and aesthetically pleasing, ***non native trees planted without understory or significant attention to soil biology*** face lower survival rate and are less likely to attract fauna.

Budget

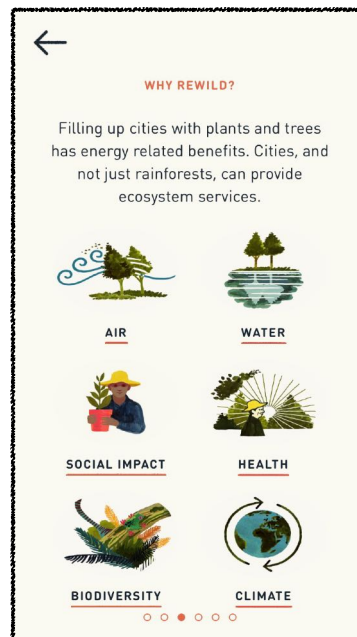
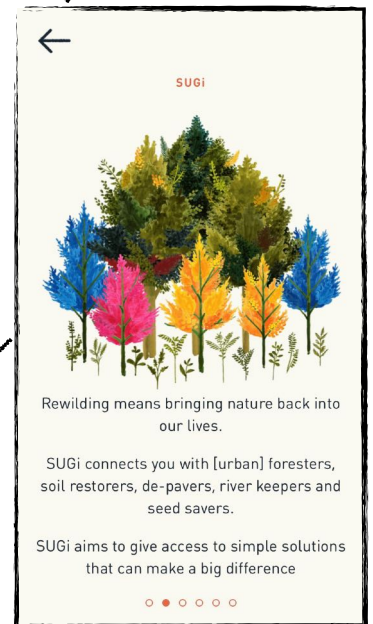
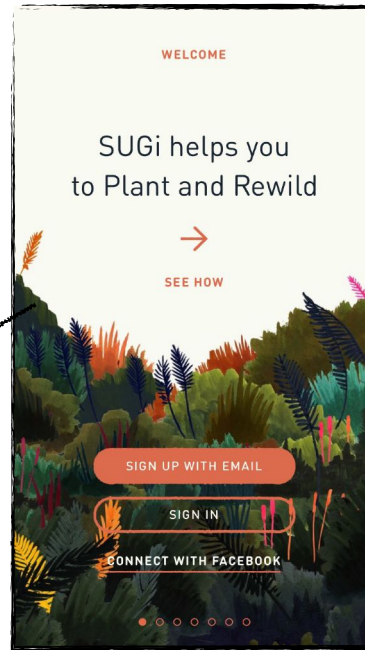
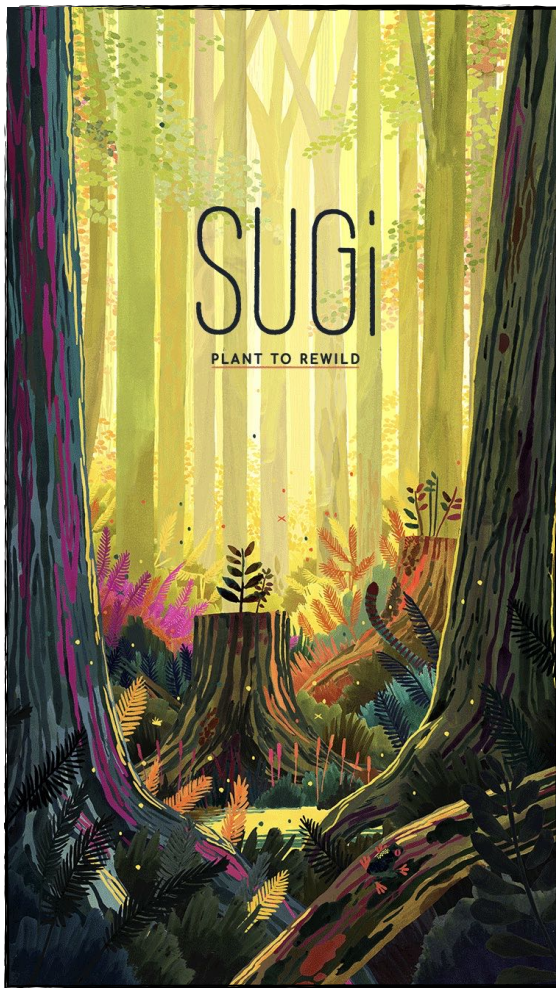
Forest cost projection for **1,400 sqft, 550 Tree Forest**. Five days onsite required. Three days required for soil and materials preparation, two for tree preparation and planting days. Only Project management and site visit costs are owed to Natural Urban Forests, LLC. Other material costs are paid directly to suppliers by the client. Budget includes anticipated material costs.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Site Visit, (travel cost, site analysis)	1	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00
Tree saplings	550	\$	\$ 3,850.00
Soil Preparation and Bio Amenders (Compost, Tea, Mulch, Etc.)			\$ 3,425.00
Project Management (Includes travel, all project logistics, and onsite planting supervision)			\$ 5,680.00
<i>Advanced Soil Biota and Chemistry Testing (Soil to be tested during site visit and 6 months after planting. Test cost due at time of testing. Includes shipping to <u>Earthfort</u> soil lab.)**</i>	2	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Total			\$ 15,455.00

*SUGI fundraising can cover total forest cost above. Details below.

Fundraising Opportunity With SUGi

Natural Urban Forests is the US based Forest Making team for SUGi. SUGi is a fundraising and story telling platform that can fully support project Management and material costs.



Storytelling Opportunity With SUGi

SUGi is a partner with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Partner.



The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is underpinned by a strong and transparent partnership structure, built around clear roles and responsibilities.

Lead Agencies



Global Partners



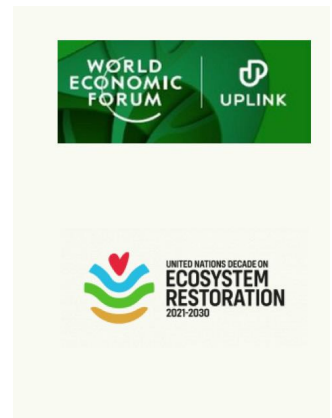
Supporting Partners



Global Outreach and Recognition With SUGi



In partnerships with SUGi our work has been recognized at the World Economic Forum Uplink Trillion Tree Challenge. SUGi is also an official partner of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.



Our [Healing Forest](#) Project featured by [The World Economic Forum](#).

Thank you!



NATURAL
URBAN
FORESTS

We look forward to creating a thriving forest in your name!

ITEM 3

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of June 22, 2021

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – June 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. Present at the time of roll call were: Commissioner Rona Bortz, Commissioner Michelle Hammond, Commissioner Casey Law, Commissioner Bill Kelly, Commissioner Michael Siegel, Vice Chair Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair Amy Jones, and Mayor Pro Tem Michael Cacciotti. Staff present: Ted Gerber, Deputy Public Works Director; Garret Crawford, Public Works Operations Manager; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst.

1) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2) Review of City Cool Roof and Parking Lot Codes

The commission was joined by several building officials from Transtech Engineers including Dennis Tarango, Ayla Jefferson, and Jeffrey Cau. Transtech is contracted by the City to provide building and safety services including enforcement of California construction codes as adopted in Title 24. Tarango explained that the City’s classification as Climate Zone 9 exempts residential developments from cool roof requirements; however, commercial buildings can choose to install cool roofs to comply with the energy code unless they choose alternative measures such as additional insulation. Cool roofs reflect heat and are just one of the prescriptive measures to comply with building energy requirements to reduce energy consumption. Since the City is prominently residential, there aren’t many cool roofs.

The commission asked questions and engaged in discussion regarding how cool roofs affect the urban heat island, the feasibility of adopting more restrictive cool roof codes than the state, and the alternative of offering incentives for cool roof installations rather than seeking approval for an upgraded code.

The commission also discussed the need to strengthen the enforcement of the City’s parking lot codes and how they can be incentivized. Other heat island mitigation mechanisms were mentioned including carports with solar panels and cool paving. Chair Jones stated that the next step would be for the commission to review the current codes related to landscape in parking lots, update it if necessary, and explore ways to incentivize and enforce the code.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ACTION ITEMS:

3) Recommendation of Tree Ordinance

Crawford reviewed the changes made to the Tree Ordinance with the commission including edits to the definition of “shrubs” and clarifying the number of tree replacement requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY VICE CHAIR DI GIORGI, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SIEGEL, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF TREE ORDINANCE TO CITY COUNCIL

4) Approval of Minutes- Meeting of May 25, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HAMMOND, MOTION CARRIED 7-0, TO APPROVE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS:

5) City Council Liaison Communications

Mayor Pro Tem M. Cacciotti shared that the Council approved the budget and budgeted an additional \$50,000 for tree replacement and planting. He shared the City's response to a fallen tree branch on Oak St. and took a tour of the district with staff and community members to show conditions of our streets and tree canopy. Mayor Pro Tem shared updates from AQMD and Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy. Lastly, he explained how City staff are working with Southern California Edison in their Charge Ready Program to update infrastructure to accommodate installation of several EV chargers.

6) Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Law had no comments. Commissioner Bortz shared that Transition South Pasadena will be providing reusable 4th of July decorations for businesses on Mission St. She suggested that the City plant a tree at the Fremont entrance to the City. Commissioner Kelly requested an update on the Athens Ad Hoc Committee and was interested in discussing how the City can use Measure W to create more water capture features in the City. Commissioner Siegel had no comments. Commissioner Hammond asked staff to provide information on any maintenance plans for all the new tree plantings. Vice Chair Di Giorgi shared the "Plastic Against Plastic" art classes. Chair Jones encouraged fellow commissioners to forward information on the leaf blower webinar to their community groups. The commission discussed recommendations of gardeners and concluded that South Pasadena Beautiful and Transition South Pasadena could offer gardener recommendations.

7) Staff Liaison Communications

Kasparian updated the commission on the gas-powered leaf blower ordinance and the Athens Ad Hoc Committee. Mayor Pro Tem asked staff to provide an update on SB619.

8) Upcoming Events

- Transitioning to Electric Landscaping Equipment - Free Webinar - June 23, 7pm
- South Pasadena Beautiful Plant Swap - Library - June 26, 10am-12pm
- Celebrate National Pollinator Week with "The Pollinators" - June 21 - June 27
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars – Various dates
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars – Various dates
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation>)

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Amy Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:35p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on July 27, 2021.

William J. Kelly, Commissioner

ITEM 7

Upcoming Events

National Night Out

Orange Grove Park
(815 Mission St.)
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
6:00PM - 9:00PM
Free Admission



Games - Food - Music - Inflatables & More!

This event is designed to promote community awareness by educating South Pasadena residents about crime prevention and available resources! Come meet your police, fire, and various other City Departments!